

Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods and systems for hitless switch management module failover and upgrade are disclosed. According to one method, a master switch management module participates in network protocols and performs packet forwarding operations. The master switch management module distributes protocol state and packet forwarding information to the slave switch management module. The slave switch management module continuously monitors the operational state of the master switch management module. In response to detecting failure of the master switch management module or a forced failover initiated by the user interface on the master switch management module, the slave switch management module begins network protocol operation in the master mode in a state where the master switch management module last operated correctly.